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SUBJ: SECVISIT: BRIEFING PAPER: MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
ISSUES

1. THE ISSUE

NORWAY PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE UN IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. ITS HUMANITARIAN AND EGALITARIAN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ITS AID PROGRAM, AND ITS SELF-ASSIGNED ROLE AS A BRIDGEBUILDER GIVE IT INFLUENCE WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS SIZE. NORWAY SUPPORTS TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN WE DO SOME OF THE OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS ARTICULATED IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) AND IN THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS). IT IS INCREASINGLY COORDINATING ITS POLICIES IN THIS AREA WITH "LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" SUCH AS THE NORDIC AND THE NETHERLANDS AND INTENDS TO "SHOW THE WAY" TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT UNCTAD, IV, TO INCREASE NORWAY'S CREDIBILITY" WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

2. NORWEGIAN POSITION

NORWAY HAS PLEDGED TO MEET THE UN FOREIGN AID TARGET OF 1 PERCENT GNP BY 1978 AND EXPECTS TO GO BEYOND IT THEREAFTER. IT WILL SPEND 230 MILLION OR 0.74 PERCENT OF GNP ON AID IN 1976. HALF OF ITS AID IS MULTILATERAL AND HALF BILATERAL WITH MOST OF THE LATTER CONCENTRATED IN SEVEN MAIN TARGET COUNTRIES: INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA,
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01923 210824Z

KENYA AND BOTSWANA. FOR PHILOSOPHIC AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS

NORWAY BELIEVES THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD, EXCEPT WHERE THESE GOALS ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE OR IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH NORWEGIAN INTERESTS, E.G., NATIONALIZATION WITHOUT COMPENSATION. NORWAY CONSIDERS THAT ITS APPROACH ENCOURAGES MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE GROUP OF 77 AND JUSTIFIES ITS AID TO ALL FACTIONS IN VIETNAM DURING THE WAR, TO MOST LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AS WELL AS THE CONTINUATION OF CONTROL VERSUS AID TO COMPLETE TWO HARBOR PROJECTS IN CUBA IN 1978. IT ALSO LEANS TO SUPPORT OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMODITY QUESTIONS AND TO GENERAL SUPPORT OF NIEO AND CERDS. NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE FORTHCOMING U.S. APPROACH AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, AND HOPE THIS NEW U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD LDCS WILL CONTINUE.

3. U.S. POSITION

WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN THE FORWARD MOMENTUM OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA AT UNCTAD IV, ECOSOC THIS SUMMER AND THE 31ST UNGA. CONCRETE RESULTS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A COORDINATED APPROACH BY DEVELOPED NATIONS AND A GENUINE CONSENSUS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS RATHER THAN BY LANGUAGE IMPOSED BY A DEVELOPING COUNTRY MAJORITY.

4. TALKING POINTS

--WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF NORWAY'S SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

--WE ARE SYMPATHETIC WITH NORWEGIAN EFFORTS TO "BUILD BRIDGES" WITH THE DEVELOPING NATIONS AND ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE MORE MODERATE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77.

--HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT NORWAY'S PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS CERDS AND NIEO--GENERAL ACCEPTANCE WITH SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS--CAN LEAD TO FALSE EXPECTATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE PREFER THE MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH OF BUILDING ON WHAT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE AS IT DISCOURAGES THE IMPOSITION, BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY MAJORITY OF UNACCEPTABLE CONCEPTS AND SOLUTIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 01923 210824Z

--WE HOPE NORWAY WILL COORDINATE ITS POSITIONS WITH ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO REACH A DEVELOPED COUNTRY CONSENSUS AT MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES SUCH AS ECOSOC, AND THE 31ST UNGA ON SUCH ISSUES AS NEGOTIATION OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, WE WOULD WELCOME EARLY CONSULTATIONS WITH NORWAY ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US WHICH WE FORESEE ARISING AT THIS FALL'S UNGA.

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